Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9. (canceled)

Claim 10. (currently amended) A system for conducting a multimedia network, comprising:

a plurality of participants each providing multimedia conferencing data including video signals and audio signals;

a client in conference with the participants, the client capable of receiving a video stream corresponding to one of the participants at a time;

a participant selection control parameter stored in a memory for tuning ~~the~~ a video switching stream behavior;

a participant state table stored in a memory and indicating an activity state variable for each participant, said activity state variable including values and statistics associated with the participant's video signals and audio signals, said activity state variable being updated according to changes in the data information and the control information of the video signals and audio signals; and

a bridge server connected to the participants through a network and having a point-to-point connection with the client, the bridge server receiving simultaneously the multimedia conferencing data including a video stream from each of the participants, updating the activity state variable stored in the memory for each participant in the participant state table, periodically computing a weight of said each participant based on the activity state variable of said each participant and the participant selection control parameter, identifying a participant having a highest weight among the participants, and selecting from the received multimedia conferencing data a video stream corresponding to the identified participant having the highest weight for transmission to the client for viewing.

Claim 11. (original) A system as in claim 10, wherein the plurality of participants and the bridge server are connected through a multicast network.

Claim 12. (original) A system as in claim 10, wherein the bridge server further transmits to the client an audio stream containing a mixture of audio signals from the participants of the network conference.

Claim 13. (original) A system as in claim 10, wherein the computing of weight by the bridge server includes determining whether said each participant is currently being shown to the client.

Claim 14. (original) A system as in claim 13, wherein the computing of weight by the bridge server includes determining a length of time for which said each participant has been shown to the client if said each participant is currently being shown.

Claim 15. (original) A system as in claim 13, wherein the computing of weight by the bridge server includes determining whether said each participant is talking.

Claim 16. (original) A system as in claim 10, wherein the computing of weight by the bridge server includes determining a length of time for which said each participant has not been shown to the client.

Claim 17. (canceled)

Claim 18. (original) A system as in claim 10, wherein the multimedia conferencing data received by the bridge server include a combined video stream having substreams corresponding to the participants, and wherein the bridge server demultiplexes the combined video stream into a plurality of individual video streams each including one of the substreams in the combined video stream.

Claims 19-23. (canceled)